

# Newborn Screening Fact Sheet



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- **Mississippi now has the most comprehensive newborn screening program in the nation. Comprehensive newborn screening will prove to be a great benefit for the children of Mississippi.**
  - **The Ben Haygood Comprehensive Newborn Screening Program Act authorized the Mississippi State Board of Health to determine and specify disorders to be included in the comprehensive newborn screening program in addition to the five disorders already specified by law.**
  - **The Mississippi State Board of Health added 35 new disorders to newborn screening based on recommendations of the Genetics Advisory Committee.**
  - **Effective June 1, 2003, the Mississippi State Department of Health began screening Mississippi babies for a total of 40 genetic disorders, making Mississippi the first state in the nation to provide such an extensive newborn screening program.**
  - **The goals of the newborn screening program are:  
to provide comprehensive newborn screening for all Mississippi babies;  
to provide follow-up for all abnormal and inconclusive test results;  
to work with physicians to provide early detection of genetic and metabolic disorders; and,  
to provide referrals for services in order to assure optimal medical care and family counseling for children diagnosed with a disorder.**
  - **The Neo Gen Screening laboratory was selected to provide the testing. Neo Gen Screening is a state-of-the-art newborn screening laboratory that has screened blood samples from over 1.5 million babies since 1994. Screening services identify treatable disorders very early in life before irreversible health damage occurs.**
  - **For more information on newborn screening, contact the Mississippi State Department of Health: 1-800-489-7670 or online at [www.health.ms.gov](http://www.health.ms.gov).**